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square degrees, whereas the BRUCE telescope (a doublet) covers about twenty-five square degrees (14 x 17 plates are used). The exposures for a given magnitude are materially shorter for the latter instrument. These advantages have been pointed out by Professor PICKERING at various times and places in the years 1883-87. In 1889, Miss CATHERINE W. BRUCE, of New York, generously provided the means to carry out the suggestion of Professor PICKERING. Mr. ALVAN G. CLARK undertook the very difficult task of making the objective, and in 1896 the complete telescope was mounted at Arequipa.* The maps accompanying the H. C. O. *Circular* are wonderfully fine, and show that the plan adopted for this powerful instrument has been completely successful. The BRUCE telescope is provided with an objective prism for photographing stellar spectra; and the preliminary results with this, also, are entirely satisfactory. It appears that Professor PICKERING has abandoned his original scheme of making a complete photographic map of the whole sky with this instrument, and intends to leave the map to the International Photographic Congress. The BRUCE telescope is to be employed, at least for the present, on maps of special regions and upon spectrum photography.

Miss BRUCE and the Harvard College Observatory are to be congratulated upon the splendid success of a daring experiment.

E. S. H.

ELEMENTS OF DESCRIPTIVE ASTRONOMY: A TEXT-BOOK. By Dr. HERBERT A. HOWE, Director of the Chamberlin Observatory, Denver. Boston: Silver, Burdett & Co., 1897, 8vo, pp. 340, with 195 colored, and other, plates and figures, star-maps, etc., etc.

[Reviewed by EDWARD S. HOLDEN.]

There is always room for a good text-book of descriptive astronomy, and the present volume will be welcomed by teachers in high-chools, and by those who wish to give a general course to college students without going into the more technical details of the subject, while insisting on a full treatment of principles and an accurate account of the present state of knowledge.

Professor HOWE has, as might be anticipated, furnished a text embodying the most approved methods of teaching, as well as the most recent conclusions and findings of astronomers. His successful experience as a teacher of astronomy is manifest, not only in the plan of the book and the logical way in which it is developed, but also in his apprehension of the student's difficulties, and the helps over hard places which he affords. The many illustrations have been carefully chosen with a view to throwing light upon all phases of the subject. In typography, etc., the book is very successful.

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* A *pair* of telescopic doublets of 16 inches aperture is now being made by Mr. BRASHEAR for Professor MAX WOLF at Heidelberg. See *Publications* A. S. P., Vol. VII., p. 285.

The book is not without interest to the professional astronomer, also, as it brings the history of each subject down to the present time. With regard to the canals of *Mars*, for example, about which so much nonsense has been written, what summing up could be more happy than the following? "The majority of astronomers, while freely admitting the existence of the markings called canals, are inclined to be conservative with reference to any explanation of their nature. It has been aptly said, that it is better not to know so much, than to know so many things that are not so."

MT. HAMILTON, March 10, 1897.

PORTRAITS OF ASTRONOMERS AND OTHERS BELONGING TO THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

The Lick Observatory possesses a large number of portraits of astronomers and others, most of which are preserved in albums. Some of the larger photographs and engravings are framed and exhibited in the long hall of the Observatory or in the library room — ADAMS, AIRY, BAILLY, BRADLEY, BESSEL, BOND, BOWDITCH, CAYLEY, CHAUVENET, the CLARKS, the DRAPERS, GALILEO, GAUSS, GOULD, HELMHOLTZ, the HERSCHELS, KELVIN, KEPLER, KRONECKER, LICK, MAXWELL, MICHELSON, NEWCOMB, NEWTON, RUTHERFURD, STOKES, STRUVE, SYLVESTER, and others.

Portraits of the Regents and other officials of the University of California are included in the collection.

The photographs are derived from various sources: first, from gifts to the Observatory from many living astronomers, in answer to a circular of request; second, from a large collection presented by the undersigned; third, from miscellaneous sources.

The thanks of the Observatory are returned to all those who